



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SIGMA XI QUARTERLY

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Floyd Karker Richtmyer Edwin Emery Slosson
Henry Baldwin Ward

VOL. VII

JUNE, 1919

No. 2

EDITORIALS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The especial attention of members is directed to the records of the Executive Committee meeting, which form the leading article in this number. It is important that Chapters be familiar with items that have come before the committee and be prepared to express themselves with reference to matters under consideration. The pages of the Quarterly are open to discussions from Chapter members, and any articles are welcome that include proposals for the modification of procedure, or that are in any way concerned with advancing the purposes of the organization.

REORGANIZATION AFTER THE WAR

Men who have been serving the country in various scientific capacities are generally being released from their war duties, and are drifting back to the institutions in which their permanent work lies. They are keenly alive to the needs of research to solve the problems of the present. No one can doubt that the success of our country in the near future lies in the better development of investigation as a basis for activity in every line. This touches so intimately the object of our organization that Sigma Xi should play a prominent part in the work of reconstruction. One new plan for the encouragement of research is immediately before us—namely, the provision for a series of research fellowships to be granted to holders of the Ph.D. This plan, outlined sometime back by President Stieglitz, was held in abeyance during the war. It is incumbent upon us now to push it to its completion. The newly organized committee stands ready to receive suggestions and will welcome assistance of all kinds.

NEW CHAPTERS VS. CLUBS

In the interval during which certain amendments to the constitution have been pending, the Chapter roll of the organization has not been increased, and many institutions are anxiously looking for an opportunity to exercise the privileges and secure the advantages that come from membership in the organization. Possibly members themselves do not understand that those who are located in institutions where Chapters do not exist can have very large opportunities without any action whatever on the part of a convention, or any formality other than the definite organization of a Sigma Xi club. Such clubs have been formed in various parts of the country and were active before the war. While some of them inevitably suffered by the loss of members who were led to engage in war activities, the return of conditions to the normal will doubtless afford opportunity for calling the clubs again into activity, and organizing still others along the same line. Such groups have the same opportunities for meetings, discussions, addresses, and public influence that is given through the established Chapters. They, in fact, fall short of a Chapter only in the power to elect new members, which, by our constitution, is specifically reserved to those bodies which have been granted charters. To some it has seemed that the organization of a Sigma Xi club would be a most advantageous and effective manner of trying out any situation preliminary to making application for the granting of a charter. Experience only can show whether it is desirable in an individual location to continue the Sigma Xi club or to ask for the broader powers conferred by the granting of a charter. Meanwhile, groups of members, located in industrial centers or in college communities, might well consider the organization of a Sigma Xi club as a means of inspiration for themselves and of advancing Sigma Xi ideals.

SIGMA XI IDEALS

The attention of members is especially directed to the article, entitled "Chicago Ideals." It is published at the request of the University of Chicago Chapter and is an important contribution to our discussion concerning different types of membership. It is appropriate to add to this announcement the comment that, under the direction of this chapter, associate membership has come to be really significant. Persons thus elected feel themselves an actual element

in the society, and strive for the attainment of the standard that will justify their elevation to full membership. At least one has already achieved this end, even though the plan has been working but two years. The QUARTERLY will be glad to print articles bearing on the problems of the associate membership, and the actual results of the plan as it is being worked out in different institutions.

METHODS AND RESULTS

No movement can expect great results today unless it is adequately organized to accomplish the end sought. Machinery is as important in the achievement of results in the field in which the Sigma Xi is working as it is in the manufacturing line. It is not strange that those who are only partially familiar with the situation should be inclined to feel at times that our machinery had been too much elaborated, but no one can consider the membership of the organization, which has long since passed the 10,000 mark, and its range involving nearly the whole country and including institutions of very varied character, without recognizing the desirability of perfecting methods of procedure in order to accomplish our ends with the least expenditure of time and energy and the maximum of success. The Executive Committee, familiar with conditions in the various Chapters, alive to the necessity of forestalling as well as meeting criticisms that arise on every hand both inside and outside the organization, have been impressed with the marked efficiency which has been achieved at some points in our society and with the freedom from criticism associated with methods employed in certain places.

It is indeed natural that the Alpha Chapter, which was especially indicated in the remark above, should lead in the development of adequate methods, and the Executive Committee has recently requested the Chapter to forward to other Chapters blanks and reports indicating the methods of securing nominations and of handling the same. While conditions may be different in those institutions in which a smaller number of students affords opportunity for the individual member to know, personally, all candidates for membership, yet, it is certainly true that in our large institutions some such formal procedure is most advantageous, and the attention of Chapters is carefully directed to the documents sent them through the kindness of the Alpha Chapter.